

Tongues – For Today? (Part one)

1 Cor 13:8-10

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Three gifts

Prophecies-----fail

Tongues-----cease

Knowledge-----vanish away

Fail & Vanish away --same Greek word; To render inoperative; to stop; reduce to inactivity, abolish. Both words same mood and voice

Transitive mood: Active, passing from one point in time to another.

Passive voice: influenced by outside or external agency

Both prophecies and knowledge reduced to inactivity because of outside agency.

Tongues shall cease:

Intransitive mood: Doesn't require anything outside or external to complete it's course. Completes action in and of itself.

Middle voice: When used of people it means intentional, volitional, voluntary action.

Energizing batteries: Car on race track

Stops by itself...battery ran out---Intransitive mood... Middle voice.

Stops by an outside forceI reached out and grabbed it...Passive voice

Tongues: cease to exist in and of itself (intransitive mood) without any outside influence...voluntarily (middle voice)

Something happen to cause the function of supernatural prophecy and supernatural knowledge to cease. Gift of tongues would cease to exist in and of itself after its purpose was completed.

Knowledge and Prophecy: ACT and the CONTENT. Actions & revelation.

In early church apostles supernaturally give a revelation from God.

Eventually written down or codified into written word of God (content)

Mat 13:14 (Isa 6:9), 2 Pet 1:20-21, Rev 1:3

Knowledge: come to realization of; recognize, understand; have a personal relationship with; absolute knowledge, God's revelation to man, the Word of God.

Prophecy:

Foretelling: proclaiming mysteries, truths of the Word

Forth telling: ability to see and confront hidden things of God

Gift of prophecy today?

❖ Manifestation gift (sign gift) of giving out new revelation--NO! We have the completed revelation of God today.

❖ Motivational gift of bringing to light the secret motives of the heart.

Forthtelling--YES!

1 Corinthians written in 55 AD. **Before** Bible completed.

Several books written after: Romans, Colossians, Philippians, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus. None mention tongues.

1 Cor 13:8 *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; (Something on the outside cause to come to a halt) **whether there be tongues, they shall cease** (in and of itself – when purpose completed...cease to exist); **whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away** (Something on outside cause to come to a halt).*

Tongues not need anything externally to happen to cause it to stop. It will cease to exist in and of itself (internally). When run it's course; accomplished purpose

1 Cor 13:9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part

For: Now the proof. **In Part:** section or allotment; division, share, portion, imperfectly, incompletely. We only have partial knowledge and partial prophecy. His revelation is only partial---IN PART.

Amp. "For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect)."

1 Cor 13:10 But: opposite of previous thought. **When that...** neuter gender **Perfect:** (neuter) End of a process or development. Maturity. Brought to completion. **Perfect**" not used in reference to second coming of Christ, millennium, or eternal state.

Baxter: *There would come a time when the last piece of the jigsaw or revelation was put in place. Then there would be no more partial revelations, for they would be swallowed up in the "perfect" (complete) revelation of the Word of God.*

Tongues--supernatural, God-given languages. Three incidents in Bible of tongues: Acts 2,10,19

1 Cor 14:21,22 ... Wherefore **tongues are for a sign**, not to them that believe,.

Sign: A distinguishing mark by which something is known; a token; a confirmation of a warning.

ie. Lk 11:29,30 Sign of Jonah; Mt. 16:3 Signs of times; Mark 13:3,4

Rule of interpretation : Look at context

v21 In the law it is written, ...Is. 28:11 This will be a sign that God's judgment is at hand. This will be a sign that you have crossed the line (cp Dt. 28:15-68).

About tongues:

1. Tongues not for Christians
2. Tongues for unbelieving Jews
3. Tongues a sign of impending judgment of Israel

1 Cor. written in 55 AD...within 15 years (70 AD) Titus, Roman general destroyed temple, sacrificial system, and the need for Jewish priesthood.

Caused great dispersion of Jews throughout known world.

After destruction of Jerusalem and temple...never again find mention of tongues

No longer needed. Tongues served purpose ...ceased in and of itself.

Ephesians written after 1 Corinthians...no mention of tongues

Early church fathers never mentioned tongues

- Clement of Rome A.D. 95
- Ignatious in A.D. 116
- Polycarp
- Justin Martyr A.D. 165
- Origen, Celsus, Chrysostom

For 1800+ years tongues not known in lifestyles and doctrine of fundamental Christianity.